

history of America. We are awash in tax revenue. Why? Because if you let the American people keep more of what they earn, they will save, they will invest, they will work hard. They will expand the automobile transmission shop on one street corner. They will go out and start a barbecue stand on another street corner. It is called entrepreneurial vision. People go out and roll up their sleeves and work hard, and that is what they have done.

And not only, Mr. Speaker, are we awash in tax revenue. In this case, tax relief has proven to be part of the deficit solution. We also have new jobs. Since we have had tax relief, we have created 7½ million new jobs in America. 7½ million new jobs. The greatest health care program, the greatest nutritional program, the greatest housing program in the history of America is the American free enterprise system and the jobs that it creates.

But, Mr. Speaker, if the Democrats go through with their program to have the single largest tax increase in American history, you start taking the jobs away. And somehow they call it compassion when they hand you a government check and they take away your paycheck, because when they increase taxes on American families and they increase taxes on small businesses, they take away our jobs. They take away our careers. They take away our futures. There is nothing fair about that, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing compassionate about that.

The Republican budget will ensure that hardworking American families are not burdened with further tax increases. The Republican budget will make sure that the next generation enjoys greater freedom and greater opportunity, and that vital programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security that are going broke, that we reform them and modernize them and that we can save them for the next generation.

The Democrat budget is absolutely silent, absolutely silent on the number one fiscal challenge to the next generation.

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They present a budget for the next election, Mr. Speaker. We are presenting a budget for the next generation.

So I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the American people will follow this very important debate closely, because there are two different visions. One believes in the family budget; one believes in the Federal budget. One believes in American families keeping more of what they earn; the other believes in the single largest tax increase in American history. And it is not too late for us to vote for the family budget and against the single largest tax increase in American history.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1538, WOUNDED WARRIOR ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2007

Ms. SUTTON (during the Special Order of Mr. HENSARLING), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-78) on the resolution (H. Res. 274) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1538) to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 99, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Ms. SUTTON (during the Special Order of Mr. HENSARLING), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-79) on the resolution (H. Res. 275) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 99) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 through 2012, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE BLUE DOG COALITION: THE NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARNEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this evening, I rise on behalf of the 43-member-strong, fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know about you, but I believe the American people like me are sick and tired of all the partisan bickering that goes on at our Nation's capital. I can tell you that I don't care if it is the Democratic or Republican idea. I ask myself is it a commonsense idea and does it make sense for the people in Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District? Then I vote accordingly.

What we have witnessed on this floor this evening is a lot of talk, and I think it is time that we speak to the facts, the facts about the state of our Nation and how we get out of this mess that we have seen be created during the past 6 years when the Republicans controlled the White House, the House, and the Senate.

Let's begin by looking here at the Blue Dog Coalition poster. The Blue

Dog Coalition is nothing more than a name for fiscally conservative Democrats. And as you walk the halls of Congress, the Cannon House office building, the Longworth House office building, and the Rayburn House office building, you will occasionally happen upon one of these Blue Dog Coalition posters reminding Members of Congress, reminding those who walk the halls of Congress that today, today, the United States national debt is \$8,841,089,074,666.40.

If you divide that by every man, woman, and child living in America today, every one of us, our share is \$29,326.47. It is what those of us in the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition call the debt tax, d-e-b-t, and that is one tax that cannot be cut, that will not go away until we get our Nation's fiscal house in order.

This evening, they have been talking about the budget for fiscal year 2008 that will begin October 1. Let's begin by talking about the budget passed by the Republicans for fiscal year 2007.

Mr. Speaker, I have got to tell you that when I came to Washington back in 2001, the first bill I filed as a Member of Congress was a bill to tell the politicians in Washington to keep their hands off the Social Security Trust Fund. That was back when the Republicans controlled the White House, the House, and the Senate. And the Republican national leadership would not give me a hearing or a vote on that bill. Now we know why. Because this year, under the budget that was approved last year by the Republicans for fiscal year 2007, the deficit, the deficit is \$427 billion. That is counting the portion that they are borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund with absolutely no provision made on how it is going to be paid back, when it is going to be paid back, or where the money is coming from to pay it back.

We hear a lot of talk about the national debt. It doesn't show up much in most public opinion polls. A lot of folks think we can simply print more money. Oh, how I wished it were that simple. The total national debt from 1789 until 2000 was \$5.67 trillion. But, by 2010, the total national debt will have increased to \$10.88 trillion.

I know those are big numbers. They are big numbers to me. But I can tell you this: It is a doubling, it is a doubling of the 211 year debt in just one decade, in just 10 years.

Interest payments on this debt are one of the fastest-growing parts of the Federal budget, and the debt tax, d-e-b-t, is the one tax that cannot be repealed. And every man, woman, and child in America, our share is \$29,326.47. It would take all of us in America writing a check that large to pay off this debt that has been accumulated as a result of the reckless spending we have seen from this administration and this Republican-led Congress for the past 6 years.

Well, as you can see, the current national debt, \$8,841,089,074,666.40, again,